

November 20, 1958

Dr. Mark H. Lepper
Professor of Preventive Medicine
University of Illinois
College of Medicine
1853 West Polk Street
Chicago 12, Illinois

Dear Dr. Lepper:

Thank you for your cordial letter of November 11.

In reply to your specific inquiry, the first thing I should say is that I am moving to the Department of Genetics at Stanford University at the end of this semester. I will turn over a copy of your letter to Dr. James F. Crow, who is my successor in the Department of Medical Genetics here at Wisconsin.

As concerns our program at Stanford, we have not only earnest hopes but some concrete plans for a research and training program that would encompass Human Biochemical Genetics in such a way as to meet the precise demands of your candidate. It is not certain how far our staff will be rounded out by, let's say, the academic year 1959-1960 so as to accomodate such a person. I am quite certain that we would be in a position to do so by the following year. In the clinical departments Dr. Ruth T. Gross, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, will be among those taking an active role in Clinical Biochemical Genetics. However, she expects to be away for more advanced studies in Genetics during 1959-60. If, as is remotely possible, we do complete our staff complement in Genetics during next year, we might be in a position to accomodate your fellow. If so, it would certainly facilitate matters if we had a file on him in advance. I have to say that my own laboratory program is more than full for the year 1959-60. I am enclosing some general material that may convey an idea of how we expect the department to evolve in the immediate future.

I do have one other suggestion for the Stanford program although it is not quite the same as Biochemical Genetics. Professor Henry Kaplan, who heads radiology, has a very active program in the Biology of Tumor Initiation. This problem has profound genetic implications and I am looking forward myself to a close association with Professor Kaplan. If this area of research is not too distant I would have no hesitation in recommending that your man apply directly to him.

In writing the above I have been assuming that you were interested in developing competence in research connected with Biochemical Genetics. In addition to the research experience, we should have a number of formal courses relevant to the program, some of these being given in the Biology Department, for example, by Dr. Charles Yanofsky and some following the lines of my interests and that of my colleagues in Genetics. I should add that this program is very much basic science oriented. For more clinical types of work and particularly studies in which evaluation of pedigrees plays a primary role, I could do no better than to

Lepper, M. H.

recommmend Professor Neel's program at the University of Michigan especially for the next year during which we will still be in an organizational stage.

I am sure you can look forward to hearing independently from Dr. Crow.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

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JL:mk